

Farm & Forest

Working together to conserve active farms and forests in King County

February 1999

Puget Sound Fresh Promotes Local Products

The King County Agriculture Commission started the Puget Sound Fresh marketing program to encourage consumers, retailers and restaurants to purchase locally grown products. Any farm product from one of the 12 counties that border Puget Sound may be identified as "Puget Sound Fresh".

Puget Sound Fresh Boosts Sales

It's been a busy year advertising locally grown food. Look what was accomplished!

- Several local farmers and farmers' markets reported increased sales of 10% to 30%.
- Major supermarkets Thriftway and Larry's Markets participated.
- Many popular Seattle restaurants, including Union Square Grill, Metropolitan Grill, Pescatore Fish Café and Elliott's Oyster House, featured Puget Sound Fresh products.
- Stickers, grocery bags, window decals, recipe cards and balloons were produced



to encourage consumers to buy Puget Sound Fresh.

- The logo traveled the county on the sides of 60 Metro buses.
- Radio stations aired more than 200 ads per week and dozens of newspapers ran weekly ads.
- A web site now describes the program and links visitors to other agricultural sites. Check it out at www.metrokc.gov/farms.
- The "Puget Sound Fresh" message was presented at special events such as KOMO Kids Fair, King County Fair and Taste of Washington Farms.

Next year we plan to improve the connections already made with farmers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers. Advertising will continue, and other counties will be included to keep local farmers growing.

How Can You Participate?

Use the Puget Sound Fresh logo. Farmers can identify their products as locally grown by attaching the "Puget Sound Fresh" logo on

their packaging or directly to the items being sold.

Sell Puget Sound Fresh products.

Retailers tell their customers that they sell locally grown products by displaying the logo in their stores. They hang banners and put stickers on price signs and other display material. Restaurants display the logo throughout the dining room and on menus.

Buy Puget Sound Fresh products. Use your consumer dollar to support participating businesses. Ask for Puget Sound Fresh goods at your favorite store or restaurant.

Puget Sound Fresh and farmland protection programs are helping to keep King County farms viable. Local farms enhance our region's quality of life. Locally grown food is fresher and uses fewer transportation resources than imported food. Farms also support our local economy and employ a diverse work force.

If you have questions or want to participate in Puget Sound Fresh, contact **Steve Evans** at **206-296-7824** or e-mail steve.evans@metrokc.gov.

Farm Fact

The Puget Sound area grows
80-90% of the United States
commercial crop of raspberries.

That's a lot of jams, ice cream
and yogurt! Find other
interesting farm facts at

www.metrokc.gov/farms



Executive Sims Appoints the New Rural Forest Commission

The King County Rural Forest Commission was recently created to advise the County in its efforts to preserve rural forestry. At their November meeting, King County Executive Ron Sims asked the Commission to “give us a vision that we can implement. All of you come with very different interests,” he stated. “All of you have different experiences and different views. We’re looking forward to finding a common ground.”

The Commission has a big job to do. They will help the County implement the forest strategies in the Farm and Forest Report, and help develop policies and incentive programs to keep forestry viable in King County. If you would like to receive notice of the Rural Forest Commission meetings, please contact **Cindy Torkelson** at **206-296-7818**, or by e-mail at cindy.torkelson@metrokc.gov.



Executive **Ron Sims** (far left) and Councilmember **Larry Phillips** (eighth from left) welcomed the Rural Forest Commission. From Ron's left; they are: **Rudy Edwards**, U.S. Forest Service North Bend Ranger District; **Donald Duprey**, Pacific Forest Trust; **Gordon Bradley**, University of Washington College of Forest Resources; **Steven Ketz**, Weyerhaeuser Company; **Jean Bouffard**, rural resident; **William Kombol**, Palmer Coking Coal; **Larry Phillips**, Metropolitan King County Councilmember; **Ken Konigsmark**, Mountains to Sound Greenway; **Fred McCarty**, forest landowner; **Doug McClelland**, Washington Department of Natural Resources; **Wendy Walsh**, forest landowner; **Andrew Schwarz**, rural landowner and **Matthew Freeman-Gleason**, Environmental Home Store. Not pictured: **Karen Walter**, Fisheries Department, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

Learn about Farming through the Farm Education Program

Farming in King County faces many obstacles. The low profitability of farming, the high cost of land, and encroaching development has contributed to a decline in the number of farms in the region. Despite difficulties, many small farmers are trying new crop production and marketing strategies in order to keep farming. To support these efforts, WSU Cooperative Extension King County has implemented an educational outreach program funded by a grant from the King County Arts and Natural Resources Bond Initiative.

At least **40 educational workshops** for farmers and people interested in farm topics will be offered **free** of charge through the end of 1999. So far, workshops have been offered on topics ranging from biodynamic composting to organic pest control. Look for upcoming workshops on pastured poultry, passing on your farm, and planning for the year 2000. WSU Cooperative Extension is also offering classes for immigrant farmers who need language

assistance. If you are interested in farming, WSU has a workshop that will interest you. Call **Rebecca** at **206-205-6388** to receive a schedule of upcoming classes.

In addition to workshops, the following fact sheets are currently available:

- Internet Marketing for Farmers
- Fresh Farm Eggs—Marketing and Regulations
- Farming and the Year 2000 Problem
- Farming with Beneficial Organisms
- Tips on Buying Farm Equipment
- Equipment and Farm Supply Vendors
- Safe Handling of Farm Produce
- Disaster Preparedness for Livestock
- Farming in King County: A Treasure in Peril

New fact sheets are being created, so call **Sylvia** at **206-205-6410** for a complete list.

To help increase consumer awareness of farming activity in King County, the Cooperative Extension sponsored a farm tour in late September. Shoppers and local farmers spent a gorgeous



Sunday afternoon at Jubilee Farm and Tolt Gardens in Carnation, and Full Circle Farm in North Bend. These farm tours, combined with signs identifying local crops, help people understand the “farm to food” connection. Interpretive signs explaining community supported agriculture, organic certification, and livestock operations will be in place by the end of 1999. To participate in the next farm tour or suggest sign locations, call **Mara** at **206-205-6402**.

Prefer surfing to calling? This information and more can be found at <http://king.wsu.edu>.

Updates

Agricultural Community Harvests Ag Grants

The Community Agriculture Grant program was designed to enhance and promote commercial agriculture in King County. In this round, eleven groups will receive over \$92,000 in assistance for their work in the local agricultural community. The King County Agriculture Commission awarded grants to the following successful applicants:

Congratulations to **Michael Abate, Backyard Starts, Columbia City/U-District Farmers Market Joint Marketing Project, Delridge Neighborhood Development Association, Friends of Pea Patch, Andrew Stout, King Conservation District, Fremont Public Association, Maple Hills Elementary School, Zachary Lyons of the Washington State Farmers Market Association, and the 1999 Chef's Tour of Farms.**

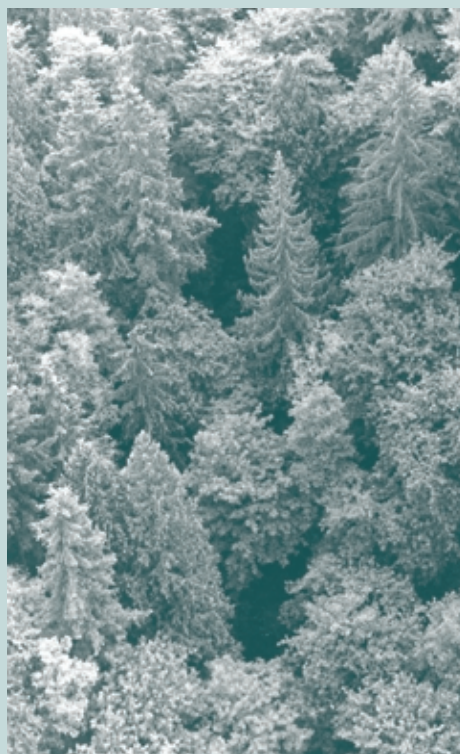
The grant awarded to the **King Conservation District** will fund the Restoration Growers Association (RGA). The RGA will connect the roughly 25 small native plant nurseries in King County with opportunities to supply plants to local restoration projects. If you grow native plants or are interested in doing so, this project may be of assistance. Contact **Geoff Reed** at **206-764-3410 ext.103** for more information.

Learn about the Livestock Ordinance

The Livestock Management Ordinance took effect on December 31st, 1998. Please contact **Laurie Clinton** at **206-296-1471** if you have any questions, or would like to have a presentation on the Ordinance for your group or club.

Save Money and Protect Land by Transferring Development Credits

Transfer of Development Credits (TDC) is a voluntary incentive tool to help rural farm and forest property owners keep their lands



in resource use by providing a financial alternative to developing or building. Using this program, rural property owners may be paid to transfer their development option to other parcels in King County. This helps steer growth towards cities and other urban areas to preserve open space, resource and environmentally sensitive lands, and focus residential development in higher density areas.

To receive more information about TDC, call **Connie Blumen** at **206-296-7809** or e-mail connie.blumen@metrokc.gov.

1999 Green Globe Award Nominees Announced

The King County Department of Natural Resources created the Green Globe Leader in Resource Management Award to recognize efforts in the conservation of farm and forest lands and the promotion of agriculture, forestry and environmentally-sound resource management practices. The winner will be announced on Earth Day, April 22nd, 1999. Here are the nominees:

Bob and Janet Baker run a dairy farm in the Enumclaw area and are implementing an environmentally friendly (and cow friendly) regimented grazing program.

Alayne Blickle, director of Horses for Clean Water, is spreading the message of best management practices for horse ownership to communities around the county through farm tours and workshops.

Bob and Bonnie Gregson, owners of a seven-acre organic farm on Vashon Island, are leaders in promoting local agriculture.

Christi Norman, a strong advocate of wetland conservation, helps forest landowners in the preparation of forest stewardship plans.

David Warren, executive director of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, is encouraging forest stewardship and forest preservation among Vashon Island land owners by publicizing the County's incentive programs and other efforts.

Bill Woods is the Secretary of the Washington Farm Forestry Association and a strong advocate for maintaining viable working forests on small private landholdings in King County.

Hats off to all of these landowners who are working to maintain a productive natural environment in King County! For details about the Green Globe Awards, call **Jo Goeldner** at **206-296-8361**.

Updates Continued

Forest Stewardship Planning Classes

The Carnation Forest Stewardship Planning class is underway and fully enrolled with 30 students! The enthusiasm of these forest landowners is encouraging, and the Forestry staff is in the process of developing future classes. We have tentatively scheduled a class on Vashon Island to begin in late March (contact **Susie Kalhorn** at **206-296-7156**) and another in the Maple Valley area starting in September (contact **Steve Sax** at **206-205-6380**).

Also coming this Spring is a free workshop on Agroforestry and Medicinal Plants on Saturday, April 24 from 10:00 – 4:00 (location TBA - contact **Rebecca LiaBraaten** at **206-205-6388**). Several other one-day workshops are in the works, so stay tuned.

Want to Affect Growth in King County?

Beginning in 1999, King County will start a major revision of the King County Comprehensive Plan for the first time since the plan's adoption in 1994. The 2000 Update will remove barriers to growth management, make the plan more usable and consistent, and improve information to the public.

You can help improve the agricultural and forestry policies in the 2000 Update by participating in the many opportunities for public involvement. Please contact the **Growth Management Hotline** at **206-296-8777**, or send us e-mail at compplan@metrokc.gov. Visit the Comprehensive Plan Website at <http://www.metrokc.gov/budget/compplan>.

Looking for Forestry Information? Forestry Bibliography Can Help

Benj Wadsworth, a graduate student from the University of Washington College of Forest Resources, has recently compiled a list of over 500 reports and articles covering a wide range of forestry topics relevant to small landowners. You can use this list to quickly find information about forestry incentives, marketing and special products.

An addition, Benj is working with County foresters to survey forest landowners in an effort to better understand the values and objectives affecting land use decisions in rural areas. Many of you will receive a mail survey in the near future. We hope that you will take the time to complete it, as your participation is important to the success of the study.

For more information or if you would like to receive a copy of the bibliography, call **Benj** at **206-296-7805** or e-mail at benj.wadsworth@metrokc.gov.



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